

Dione Apple, 1275 Barry Avenue #7, Los Angeles, CA 90025

November 16, 2000

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to a request by Robert de Sylva to provide a statement of fact, which recounts to the best of my knowledge, my dealings with Robert de Sylva and Charles Lowry as they relate to mobile oil recycling systems, the subject of Robert de Sylva's pending patent application.

Having known Robert de Sylva since 1993, I was well aware of his endeavors in the field of oil recycling systems. He was a distributor for TF Purifiner, Inc., a seller of mobile oil recycling devices.

In late 1994, Robert de Sylva orally disclosed to me concepts pertaining to a new mobile oil recycling system designed to overcome limitations of the oil recycling systems that he was currently working with. Robert de Sylva was actively pursuing these concepts in an effort to have them developed and marketed.

Also in late 1994, Robert de Sylva asked me to assist him in locating someone who could help him install the oil recycling devices on customers' automobiles. In late January of 1995, I informed Robert de Sylva that Charles Lowry had mechanic experience and was a possible candidate for assisting in the installation of oil recycling devices made by TF Purifiner, Inc., and recycling systems soon to be made by Robert de Sylva. I subsequently introduced Charles Lowry to general concepts of mobile oil recycling systems to see if he was interested, capable, and wished to assist in device installations. Charles Lowry expressed amazement, fascination, and was clearly unfamiliar with the oil recycling concepts that I presented to him. It was evident that Charles Lowry had not been introduced to the concepts before.

Robert de Sylva requested that I have Charles Lowry sign a confidentiality agreement before disclosing any information to Charles Lowry pertaining to oil recycling devices, and particularly before disclosing any information pertaining to Robert de Sylva's related proprietary ideas. Regretfully, I did not have Charles Lowry sign the confidentiality agreement.

In approximately mid May of 1995, Robert de Sylva called to inform me that Charles Lowry reported filing a patent application on an oil recycling system based on the information that I and Robert de Sylva disclosed to Charles Lowry during the course of oil recycling device installation work.

Upon review of the issued patent by Charles Lowry, it is apparent that Charles Lowry's patent incorporates many of Robert de Sylva's previously conceived ideas. Furthermore, upon review of Robert de Sylva's patent application, it is apparent that the general ideas presented therein were earlier developed by Robert de Sylva, for I recollect Robert de Sylva disclosing these concepts to me in late 1994 as mentioned above. The concepts include ideas pertaining to the use of a textured surface to promote evaporation and the use of an evaporation chamber contained on the interior of a filter.

I, Dione Apple, certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,



Dione Apple